

How to Cut Your Energy Costs

Energy-Saving Steps for your home, car, and business can...

1. **Save you money**
2. **Increase the value of your property**
3. **Result in less repairs/replacements**
4. **Help the environment**



Information for this item provided by: Energy Star, Energy.gov, Alliance to Save Energy (ASE), Building Performance Institute, National Day Calendar, Direct Energy, America Saves, Energy Sage, HomeSelfe, Energy Star, US News, Fuel Economy, Purdue University, and Home Energy Saver.

1 Keep Up Cleaning & Maintenance

Dirty appliances aren't as efficient, and poor maintenance can cause damages. Keep an eye on items like:

- Furnace
- AC
- Washer
- Oven
- Heater
- Dryer
- Stove
- Filter
- Insulation
- Fridge
- Faucets
- Water Heater
- Freezer
- Windows
- Fireplace

2 Work with Your Appliances

Operate your appliances differently to use less energy. For example:

- Use cold water in your washer
- Clean your dryer vent before every load
- Air dry dishes instead of the dishwasher dry cycle
- Wash full loads of dishes and laundry
- Keep your fridge and freezer well-stocked

3 Tune Your Habits with Electronics

Electronics are a big part of our lives. They are also a big part of our daily energy use. Try these hacks:

- Adjust screen brightness (computers, phones, TVs, etc.)
- Don't charge your cellphone all night
- Unplug unused items
- Turn off lights when not in use

4 Plan for the Seasons

Doing things differently based on weather conditions can help you save energy, including:

- Cook for the weather to keep your house cool/warm
- Use natural light in the summer
- Adjust ceiling fans (clockwise in winter and counter-clockwise in summer)
- Keep inside doors open to circulate hot/cool airflow

5 Change Your Routines

Take a closer look at your habits and see how you can use less in all areas of your life. You could...

- Take shorter showers—set an alarm
- Turn off the shower when shaving/lathering hair
- Carpool, ride the bus/train, and walk when you can
- Avoid clutter, especially around vents
- Reuse items like cups and towels

6 Invest in Energy Saving Items

Get items that are Energy Star rated and replace things when they need to be replaced. Look into...

- Replacing old, less-efficient appliances
- Replacing seals and insulation
- Transitioning to LED bulbs
- Using solar panels
- Putting weather strips on windows/doors in winter
- Using rugs on hardwood floors
- Installing low-flow faucets/shower heads
- Using smart power strips for electronics

7 Give Your Car Some TLC

When it comes to giving your car a little TLC in the energy-saving area, it might be easier and more convenient than you think. For starters...

- Use the recommended gas grade in your vehicle
- Use the oil weight that your car was designed to use.
- Maintain your alternator, serpentine belt, and serpentine pulley.
- Purchase a good-quality battery that has a decent warranty.
- Keep your battery terminals maintained (i.e. make sure they are secure and greased)
- Avoid aggressive driving.
- Make sure that your gas tank cap has a good seal.
- Drive a more efficient car—electric, hybrid, commuter, manual, etc.